DC
BATMAN
DETECTIVE COMICS
705
JAN 97
DIXON
NOLAN
ROACH
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BADD Girls
HOW'S A POLICEMAN LIKE AN OLD PENNY?
THEY'RE BOTH DIRTY ROTTEN COPPERS!
BY CHUCK DIXON AND GRAHAM NOLAN
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

WHO ARE THOSE TWO?
WE GOT A UNSUBSTANTIATED EYE-DEE--
THEY CALL THEMSELVES QUERY AND ECHO--KNOWN ASSOCIATES OF THE RIDDLER!
NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, THEY'RE HERE TO SPRING HIM FROM THE COURTHOUSE!
AND NOW THEY'RE CORNERED.
THIS SITUATION'S GONE TACTICAL IN A HURRY.
YOU GOT TWO MINUTES TO BACK OFF OR WE START TOSSIN' BODIES INTO GRAND STREET!
HERE'S A TASTE!
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COMMISH, THIS IS PETTIT. ME AND THE TAC BOYS ARE IN THE ALLEY SOUTH OF THE COURTHOUSE.
WE'RE SITUATED FOR AN ASSAULT AND I HAVE SNIPERS POSITIONED AND ZEROED ON ALL ESCAPE ROUTES.
G.C.P.D.
HOLD FOR MY CALL, BILLY.
YOU'RE THE BOSS, PETTIT OUT.
DO WE HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THEM?
NO CALLS. NO DEMANDS. AND GOD KNOWS HOW MANY HOSTAGES.
THEY'RE HERE TO FREE EDWARD NIGMA.
FOR ONCE YOU'RE WRONG.
WE'VE CHECKED THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT MANIFEST FOR TODAY'S HEARINGS AND NIGMA'S NOT ON IT.
THE COURT GRANTED HIS INCOMPETENCY PLEA FOR THAT POST OFFICE HOLDUP AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO ARKHAM.
SO WHO ARE HIS ACCOMPLICES AFTER?

ARTHUR BROWN?
YUH-YEAH. THAT'S ME.

WELL, GET SHUFFLING, CLUE-MASTER.
WE'RE ON THE CLOCK.
BUH-BUT--
MOVE IT!

WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW THE RIDDLER'S SAFELY LOCKED AWAY IN ARKHAM.

WELL...

ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT, MR. NIGMA?
QUITE... FINE, ACTUALLY...
MERCY GENERAL HOSPITAL
IF YOU NEED ANY MORE PAIN MEDICATION--

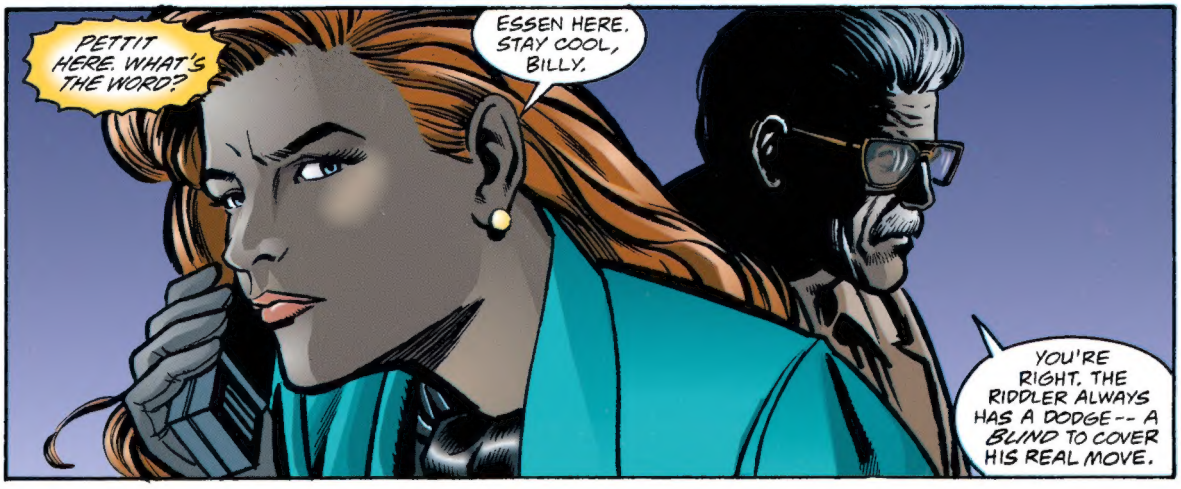
DON'T... THINK... SO...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BABY THIS MUTT.

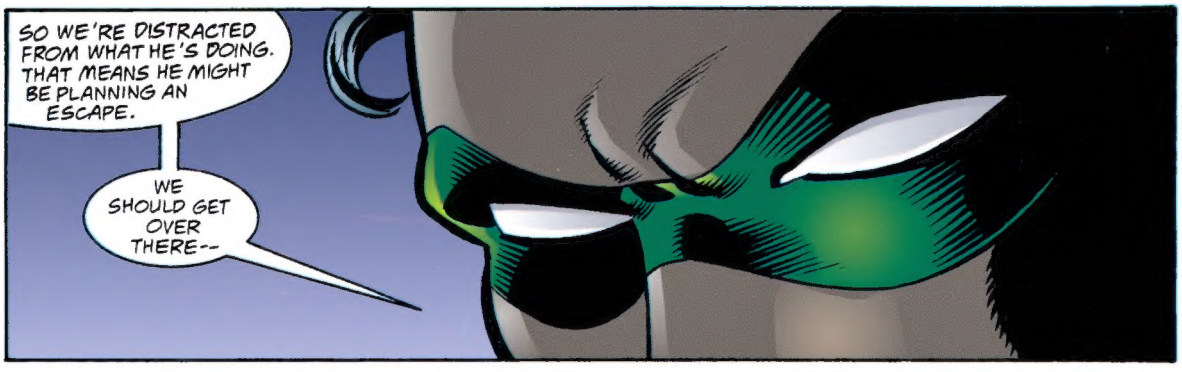
HE'S HAD A NASTY COMPOUND FRACTURE OF HIS WRIST.
HE'S BEEN THROUGH TWO HOURS OF SURGERY TO SET IT.
HE'S DOPED TO THE HAIRLINE. AND HE'S CHAINED TO THE BED.

AND HE MAY BE YOUR PRISONER. BUT HE'S MY PATIENT.
YEAH... HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

GUESS I COULD STEP OUT FOR A CIGARETTE, HUH?
YOU COULD STEP OUT FOR A DOUBLE FEATURE, OFFICER.

SO IF NIGMA'S AT MERCY GENERAL, THEN WHY'RE HIS MOLLS HERE AT CENTRAL COURT-HOUSE?
COULD BE A BIG MISTAKE, LIEUTENANT ESSEN?
THE ONLY MISTAKE IS OURS.


PETTIT HERE. WHAT'S THE WORD?
ESSEN HERE. STAY COOL, BILLY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THE RIDDLER ALWAYS HAS A DODGE-- A BLIND TO COVER HIS REAL MOVE.


SO WE'RE DISTRACTED FROM WHAT HE'S DOING. THAT MEANS HE MIGHT BE PLANNING AN ESCAPE.
WE SHOULD GET OVER THERE--

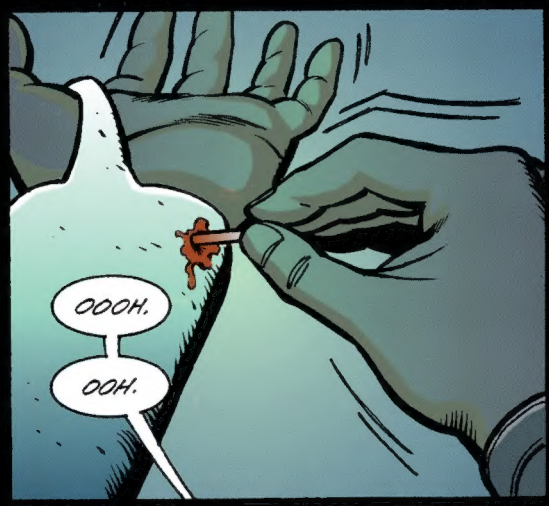
--RIGHT--
--BATMAN?
SO. HE DOES IT TO YOU TOO.

PETTIT, YOU HAVE A GREEN LIGHT.
THAT'S THE SIGNAL!
FLOOR THREE. DETENTION AREA!

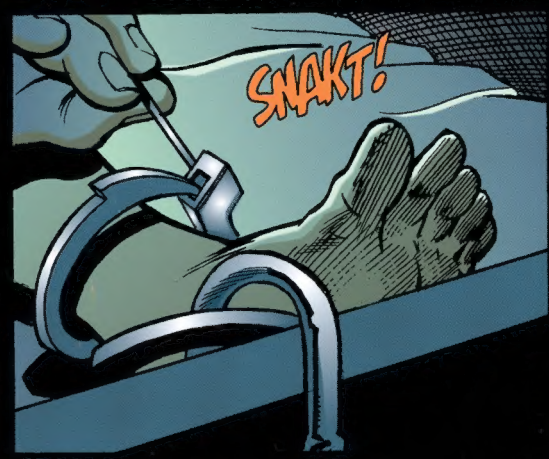
BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
KEEP UP, CLUELESS!
COUNTY CLERK
BUT I'M MANACLED!
WE GOTTA BOOK IF THIS IS GONNA WORK!
WHAT'S GONNA WORK?
YIPE!
NOW YOU'RE NOT!
GET IT, GIRL!
SHUT UP!

NNNNNG

GAH--
GAH--
GAH--


OOOH.
OOH.

WHOA.


SNAKT!

UH?

ANY TARGETS, STAN?
NOTHING BUT US CHICKENS ON NINE AND ABOVE.
NOBODY GOT PAST US. KEEP UP THE SWEEP.
POLICE
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE ROOF. THAT'S THE GETAWAY.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?
NO, COMMIS-SIONER.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR A BETTER ONE.
I'LL TALK TO YOU ON CHANNEL NINE.
YOU HAVE A HELICOPTER, RIGHT? THAT'S THE GETAWAY, RIGHT?
THAT'S SO TIRED.
WE GOT SOMETHING A LOT COOLER IN MIND.
EXIT
ROOF
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.
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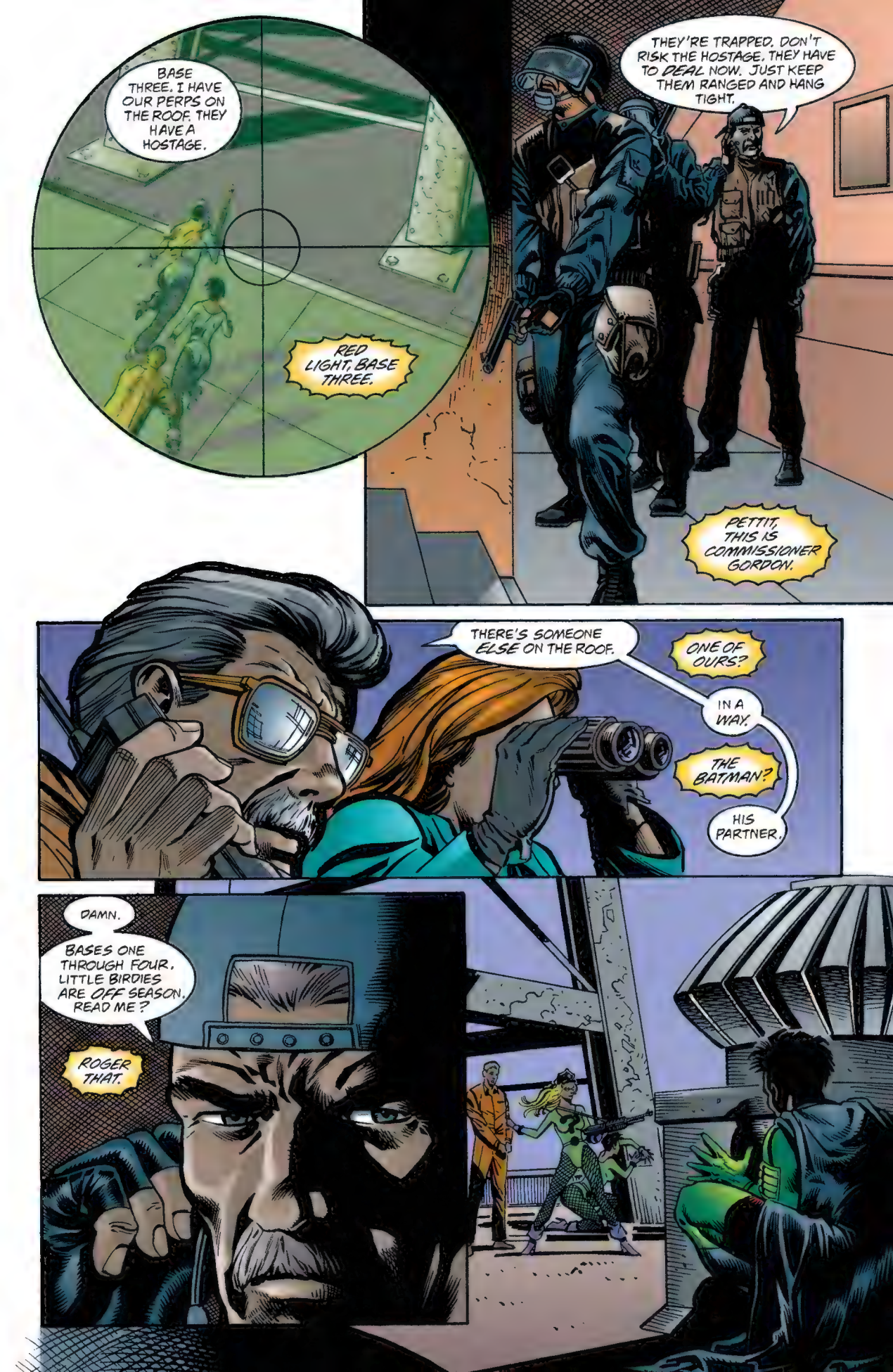

BASE THREE. I HAVE OUR PERPS ON THE ROOF. THEY HAVE A HOSTAGE.
RED LIGHT, BASE THREE.
THEY'RE TRAPPED. DON'T RISK THE HOSTAGE. THEY HAVE TO DEAL NOW. JUST KEEP THEM RANGED AND HANG TIGHT.
PETTIT, THIS IS COMMISSIONER GORDON.
THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE ON THE ROOF.
ONE OF OURS?
IN A WAY.
THE BATMAN?
HIS PARTNER.
DAMN.
BASES ONE THROUGH FOUR, LITTLE BIRDIES ARE OFF SEASON. READ ME?
ROGER THAT.

MR. NIGMA! YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT OF BED!
CAN THE BEDSIDE MANNER, FLORENCE!

YOU'RE BOTH SHOWING ME THE WAY TO THE BASEMENT!
YOU'RE THE BOSS, PAL.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

WHAT D'YOU DRIVE?
A LEXAR.
AN '89 JUGO. STICK SHIFT.
HAND OVER THE KEYS, NURSIE.

COMMISSIONER, THIS IS ROBIN.
WHAT CAN YOU SEE?
IT'S QUERY AND ECHO ALL RIGHT.

THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING AT THE BASE OF THE RADIO TOWER.
AND THEY HAVE A HOSTAGE.
SET?
SIXTY-SECOND TIMER.
WAITAMINNIT! WE'RE GONNA BASEJUMP? THE BUILDING'S NOT TALL ENOUGH!
WHERE'S MY CHUTE?
YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS FOR A GUY CALLED THE CLUEMASTER.
THIS GUY IS LAME-OH.
WHAT'RE THEY DOING?
THEY'RE CLIMBING THE RADIO TOWER--

--AND MAKING THE HOSTAGE CLIMB WITH THEM.
HOLD ON--
THAT'S NO HOSTAGE--
IT'S ARTHUR BROWN.
THE CLUEMASTER.
PETTIT! THERE'S NO HOSTAGE!
THE MAN WITH THEM IS A PERP!
THE HOSTAGE IS ONE OF THEM!
MOVE!
OKAY.
JUST KICK THE ENGINE OVER AND STEP BACK.

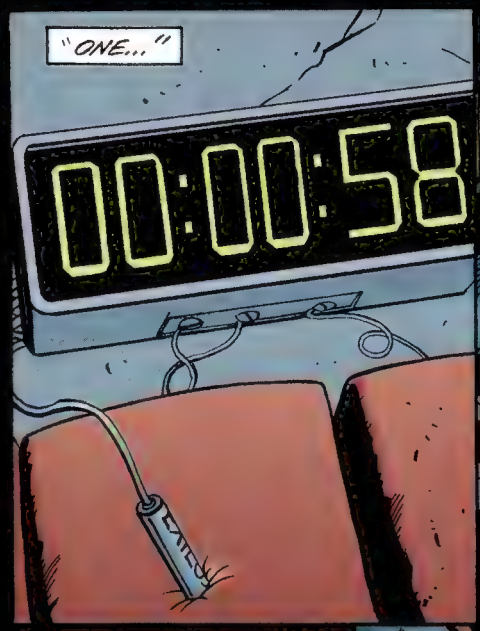
WELL, I'D LOVE TO STAY AND EXTOL THE JOYS OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE BUT I--
NIGMA
--GOTTA FLY.
RAMPA
EXIT
WHO PLANNED THIS?
WAIT'LL YOU SEE, BROWN. IT'S A HONEY OF A PLAN.
WE'RE GONE IN TEN... NINE...
EXIT

COMMISSIONER! I SEE WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED!
GET YOUR MEN OFF THE ROOF!
...FIVE... FOUR...
NO!
EXIT
HONK! HONK!
HA HA HA HA!
EXIT

THREE...
HOLD ON TIGHT, ARTIE!
WHUH--?

UFFF!

"TWO..."
EXPLOD


"ONE..."
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"ZERO!"
ROOF

BUH-BLAMM BLAMM!
WOO-HAH!
YEAH!
OH DEAR--
--THE HELL?
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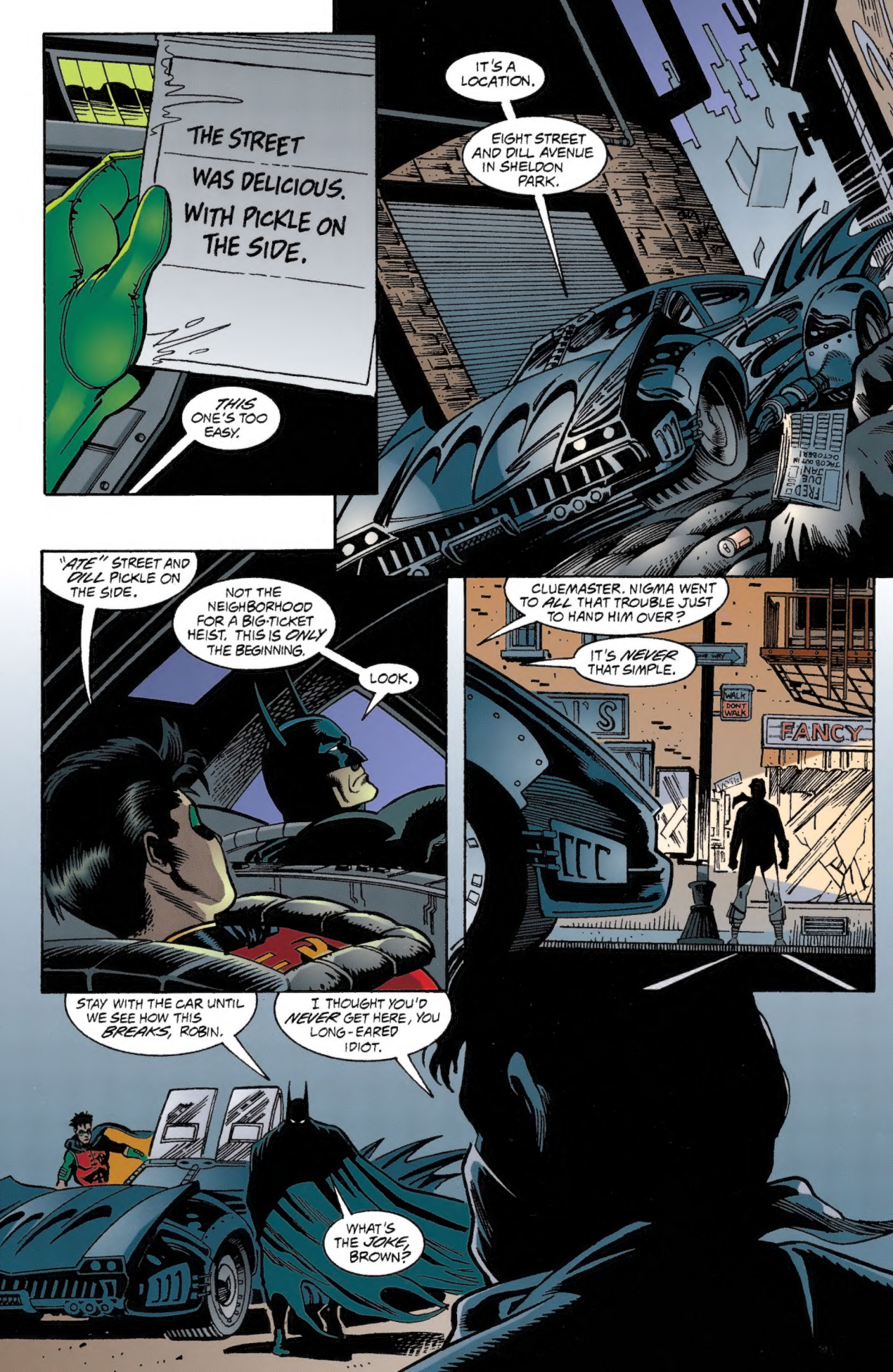
BRAAAAAAAANG!

TWO FAILURES IN ONE NIGHT ARE TWO TOO MANY.
BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT.
NEITHER DO I.
WE'VE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE WITH THE RIDDLER. HE NEVER DOES ANYTHING WITHOUT A REASON.
INCLUDING FREEING THE CLUEMASTER.
NIGMA HAS SOMETHING PLANNED, AND ARTHUR BROWN IS PART OF IT.
YOU MEAN A TEAM-UP? TWO PUZZLE-OBSESSED PSYCHOS?
DOESN'T TRACK, LIEUTENANT.
BROWN'S BEEN CURED OF HIS BENT FOR WACKY CLUES.
AND NIGMA'S DEMENTIA MAKES HIM A LONER.
THIS IS THE PART I HATE.
WAITING FOR THE FIRST MOVE.
LOOK, IF IT'S ABOUT RIPPING OFF YOUR SHTICK--
--I DON'T REALLY DO THE "PUZZLE THING" ANYMORE.

I NEVER SAW YOU AS COMPETITION, CLUEMASTER.
STRICTLY BUSH LEAGUE. PUZZLES WERE JUST A CHEAP GIMMICK FOR YOU.
BUT THEY'RE MY LIFE.
YES.
YOU PLAY AT CONUNDRUMS. TO ME THEY'RE ART.
UH HUH.
BUT I'M ABOUT TO MAKE YOU A PART OF MY MASTER CRIME.
YEAH?
OH YEAH.
YO.
SOMEBODY TELL THE COMMISH WE GOT THE LETTER HE'S LOOKING FOR.
THE BATMAN
C/O POLICE CENTRA
GOTHAM CITY,


THE STREET WAS DELICIOUS. WITH PICKLE ON THE SIDE.
THIS ONE'S TOO EASY.
IT'S A LOCATION.
EIGHT STREET AND DILL AVENUE IN SHELDON PARK.
"ATE" STREET AND DILL PICKLE ON THE SIDE.
NOT THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A BIG-TICKET HEIST. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
LOOK.
CLUEMASTER. NIGMA WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST TO HAND HIM OVER?
IT'S NEVER THAT SIMPLE.
WALK
DON'T WALK
FANCY
STAY WITH THE CAR UNTIL WE SEE HOW THIS BREAKS, ROBIN.
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET HERE, YOU LONG-EARED IDIOT.
WHAT'S THE JOKE, BROWN?

TO BE CONTINUED...